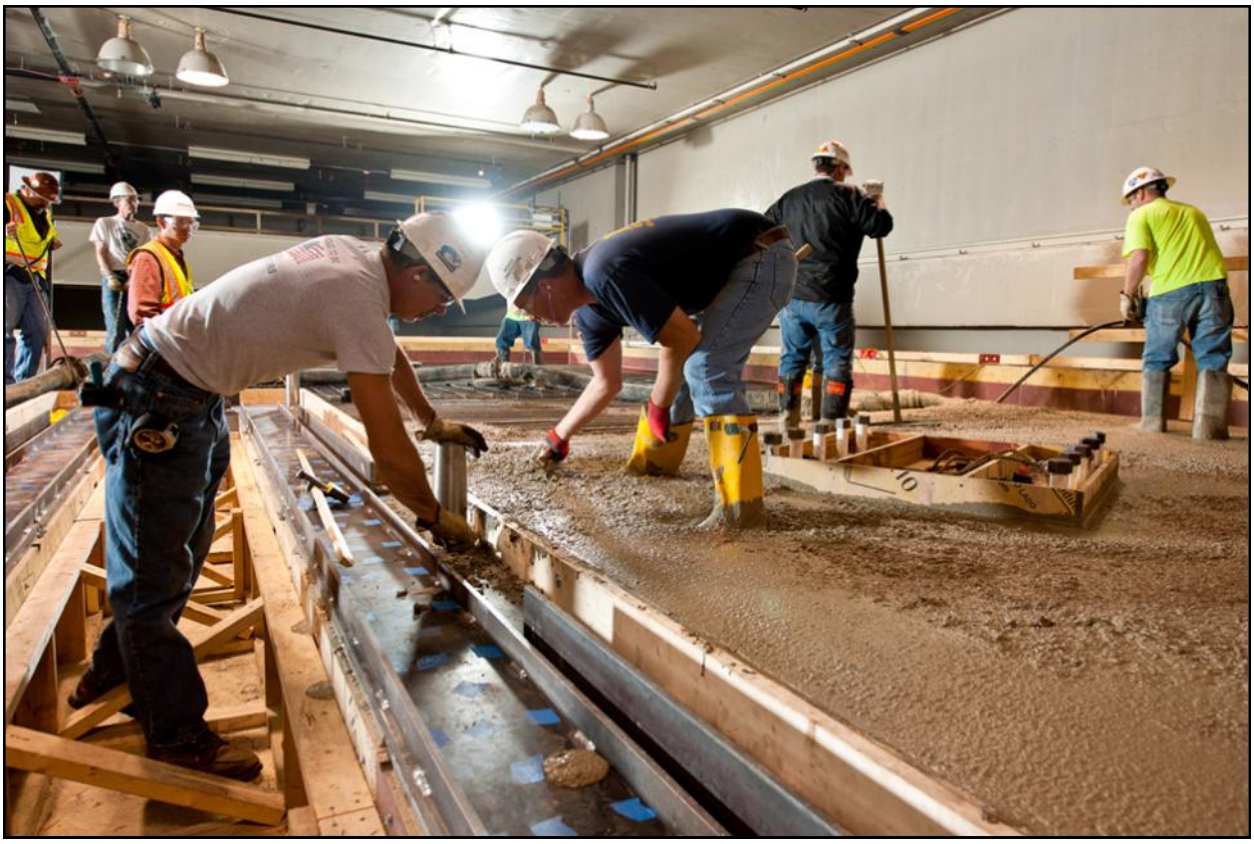
ORION
CREW EXPLORATION VEHICLE

WEEKLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

05.28.10

The closeout weld of the Crew Module (CM) Ground Test Article (GTA shown above on turntable and in banner) was completed at the Michoud Assembly Facility in New Orleans, Louisiana. The cone/forward bulkhead assembly was placed upside down onto the turntable then the barrel assembly was placed on top (shown right) in preparation for the closeout weld. Next, the GTA team will conduct Non Destructive Evaluation (NDE) inspections and begin the next sequence of mechanical assembly work in preparation for the upcoming proof testing.



The final major concrete pour for the Reverberant Acoustic Test Facility (RATF) at NASA's Glenn Research Center's Plum Brook Station in Sandusky, Ohio was completed as part of Glenn's Space Environment Test (SET) project. The recent pour of the two foot thick chamber ceiling is composed of 135 cubic yards of self-consolidating concrete weighing about 540,000 pounds, and reinforced with almost 11,000 feet of rebar, that weighs more than 22,000 pounds. When complete, the 101,189-cubic-foot RATF chamber will accommodate high-power acoustic testing of large space vehicles and will be one of the largest and most powerful in the world, reaching an overall sound pressure level of 163 dB in the empty chamber. Completion of the entire Space Environment Test Facility is expected by April 2011.